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EXCISE E

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ACTION EA I9

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,SAL 01,SAH 03,
SP 02,SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,RSR 01,L 03,H 02,INR 07,
P 04,/092 W

P R 261015Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7605
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4348
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMCONSUL DANANG 1007
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2607

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6937

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: VALIDATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

REF: STATE 43331 (NOTAL)

1. TWO VERNACULAR PAPERS HAVE CARRIED REPORTS SIMILAR TO ABC STORY. THEY ARE TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE UNFOUNDED. SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS NOT YET COMPLETED ITS REVIEW OF ELECTION RETURNS AND IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT IT WILL COMPLETE ITS REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS UNTIL

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SHORTLY BEFORE PLENARY SESSION SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 30.

3. ASSEMBLY ADMINISTRATOR [redacted] INFORMED US MORNING SEPTEMBER 26 THAT NO AUTHORIZED ASSEMBLY SOURCE HAS TOLD PRESS THAT SPECIAL COMMITTEE PLANS TO RECOMMEND

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Jean Fjuberg DATE 12/24/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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INVALIDATION OF ELECTION. [redacted] LATER CALLED EMBOFF TO INFORM HIM THAT AT AP A.I.. SEPTEMBER 26 ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT ISSUED COMMUNIQUE STATING THAT SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS NOT YET COMPLETED ITS WORK AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CONTACT BETWEEN PRESS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS. THANH ALSO SAID THAT IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NGUYEM THANH VINH SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE, VINH HAD TOLD HIM THAT "SERIOUS IRREGULARITIES" FOUND IN ONLY ABOUT SIX PERCENT OF ELECTION RETURNS EXAMINED THUS FAR. (NOTE: EMBOFF HAS APPOINTMENT TO SEE VINH MORNING SEPTEMBER 27 GIVING US OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT MORE FULLY ON HIS VIEWS.)

3. REPORTING QUESTION RAISED PARA TWO REFTEL, CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL SUBMITTED ITS FINDINGS TO THE NATIONAL

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ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 25, DEADLINE PRESCRIBED BY ELECTION LAW. REPORT HAS NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC AND WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN A COPY. HOWEVER, [redacted]

[redacted] TOLD EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 25 THAT REPORT SIMPLY STATES COMMITTEE WAS NOT FURNISHED SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE ANY OF THE ELECTION COMPLAINTS WHICH IT EXAMINED. (SEE SAIGON 5648 AND SAIGON 5957 FOR SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS.)

4. WE CONTINUE TO WATCH THIS SITUATION CLOSELY AND OVER NEXT FEW DAYS WILL TOUCH BASE WITH AS MANY DEPUTIES, AS WELL AS OTHERS CONCERNED WITH VALIDATION PROCESS, AS POSSIBLE.
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